



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
15475 LEROY
SOUTHGATE, MI 48195**

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

PRESIDENT
JASON CRAIG

DATE: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 7:04 P.M.

VICE PRESIDENT
TIMOTHY O. ESTHEIMER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

SECRETARY
DR. DARLENE L. POMPONIO

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Irvine

TREASURER
RICK LAMOS

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Mr. Craig read the District Mission and Vision Statements.

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

TRUSTEES
NEIL J. FREITAS
ANDREW A. GREEN
SHAWN SAGE

2021/22-91 Moved by Dr. Pomponio, supported by Mr. Estheimer the agenda be revised by removing Presentation item #2-Beacon Therapy Dog Program.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT
SHARON IRVINE

PRESENTATIONS

BUSINESS AND FINANCE
DIRECTOR
BARBARA WILSON, CFO

1. Shelters Elementary Recognition: Ms. Irvine honored Shelters Elementary for the recognition they received from U.S. New & World Report as a top Michigan elementary school. Mr. Kemp and several teachers were present to receive a plaque commemorating this achievement. They spoke of the caring and supportive staff that make Shelters Elementary so successful. Shelters staff, Board members and Ms. Irvine posed for pictures.
2. Construction Trades Home Construction Program: Ms. Irvine introduced CTE administrator, Mr. Marc Hansen who gave the Board a PowerPoint presentation for a Construction Trades home building project. The project involves property on Fordline and Helen streets between Chestnut and Mercier streets, at the north end of the Fordline elementary property. The proposed project would consist of 10 lots, 63 ft. wide and 138 ft. deep. Ten 1500 sq. ft. ranch style homes, with a basement and garage, would be constructed by our Construction Trades/CTE students. These ten homes would be built over ten years, 1 per year.

CURRICULUM/FEDERAL
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
DR. MICHELLE BAKER-
HERRING

Currently, Construction Trades students build two structures. One is a temporary structure that gets demolished at the end of the year. The other is a tiny home on a flatbed trailer that will be sold at the end of the year. This project would give the students something tangible to look back on years from now. Students would need to demonstrate appropriate skills and behaviors to qualify for approval into the remote build program.

Mr. Hansen reviewed the projected expenses and upfront costs. He explained the proposed changes to the block schedule that are necessary to accommodate the time needed for students to be onsite during construction. He reviewed the outsourcing needed in order to maintain compliance with building permits and codes.

Projected timeline:

- February-Seek approval from Board of Education. Bid out engineering companies for surveying and soil review
- April-Proposal to the City for approval of construction
- June-Excavation and foundation poured
- September-Remote build starts with Construction Trades students
- December-Walls and roof to be completed before first frost
- December to June-Remote build continues until completion

3. Statutory Academic Progress Presentation: Ms. Irvine presented on behalf of Dr. Michelle Baker-Herring. We are required by law through the legislation associated with pandemic instruction, to report our progress. Information was available to parents. Michigan legislature mandated new data collection and reporting requirements for local school districts beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

Educational goals were required to be established by each school building leader in conjunction with teachers by September 15, 2021. These goals must correlate to the goals set in extended COVID-19 learning plans from 2020-2021. The data collected for the student's achievement or growth goals must be measured by one of the approved benchmark assessments. Southgate uses the NWEA MAP Growth Benchmark Assessment. The Benchmark Assessment must be aligned to state standards.

Districts must report progress on benchmark assessments using achievement or growth in reading and math in the aggregate and for all grade levels, subgroups and instructional modes. We were successful in moving all of our students from a level of performance in the fall in reading and math using their writ scores. We were able to see that increase as we took our February NWEA. We expect to see continued progress in the spring.

The NWEA writ norms were constructed over the prior 5 years before the pandemic hit. When we compare our performance to norm data, there is a very clear example of the change in performance levels across all of our grades. This is not unique to Southgate. When we look at performance levels before and after the pandemic hit, we are going to see some very different norming from NWEA over the next few years.

Ms. Irvine shared key findings that are being seen across the nation that impact student progress. Many pre-existing achievement gaps grew wider over the course of the school year. Students were less likely to maintain or improve upon M-STEP, Math and ELA proficiency levels from 2019 to 2021 compared to similar students who took these assessments in 2017 and 2019. Districts that offered in-person instruction all year, fared better than those that were remote.

Ms. Irvine stated that is why we placed a heavy emphasis on bringing students back to in-person instruction. We are on the right track, we're seeing growth among our students that is a continued goal for us moving forward.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Pawlowski- Spoke about a partnership with A&T Car Wash and district sports teams for fundraising opportunities. Complimented the Construction Trades Program. Mentioned other properties in the city that could be utilized by the program.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

AHS and DMS will honor the first semester Honor Roll students. The date for AHS is yet to be determined, DMS will be held March 2. Board members are invited. These events will be held twice a year for first and second semester.

CONSENT

2021/22-92 Moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Green, the Board approve the January 25, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2022 Winter Retreat Minutes, HR Update and Disbursements for January 2022.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

ACTION

1. Approval of the SCSD Vote for MASB Board of Directors: Ms. Irvine explained, the Board needs to cast a vote in support of a candidate for the MASB Board of Directors. Dr. Darlene Pomponio is a candidate for this position.

2021/22-93 Moved by Mr. Green supported by Mr. Sage, the Southgate Community Schools Board of Education vote for the MASB Board of Directors for Dr. Pomponio.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

2. Approval of the Appointment of the Finance committee Members: Mr. Craig explained, this was discussed at the Winter Retreat. Board members, Freitas, Lamos and Estheimer have been nominated to serve on the Finance Committee.

2021/22-94 Moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the Board appoint Trustees Freitas, Lamos and Vice President Estheimer to serve on the Board of Education Finance Committee.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

3. Approval of the Appointment of Policy Committee Members: Mr. Craig explained, this was discussed at the Winter Retreat. Board members Sage, Green and Pomponio have been nominated to serve on the Policy Committee.

2021/22-95 Moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Estheimer, the Board appoint Trustees Sage, Green and Secretary Pomponio to serve on the Board of Education Policy Committee.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

4. Approval of the Replacement of the North Pointe Playground: Ms. Irvine presented this item. In 2022-2023 the District will be piloting a K-3 International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program at North Pointe Elementary. In order to have the building ready for students, the K-5 playground area needs to be restored.

Currently, the playground sits in a depressed area, prone to water accumulation. The playground ground surface is overgrown with vegetation. The playground structure is near the end of its usable life and is in need of some repair.

The area has been analyzed by at least three companies. All have identified the need to excavate the playground floor, install drainage tile, and rebuild the area. To do so, the companies would need to take down and reinstall the old playground equipment. The cost of doing this has been quoted from \$45,570 to \$74,832. In the best scenario, all of this ground reparation will return a playground that will need to be replaced within the next five years. That new playground would cost approximately \$125,000. Approaching the problem in this way will cost the District at least \$171,000.

Alternatively, simply replacing the playground now will capture the costs of rebuilding the playground surface as part of its installation pricing. After evaluating quotes and designs for new playgrounds, the District recommend the following design and quote. This will provide the school with a new playground, and restructure the ground surface, for \$129,993.

The playground would be covered out of our 2020 Bond Fund, transferring alternate ESSER-approved bond costs to ESSER.

Discussion: type of ground cover, refurbishing versus replacement and the drainage issues.

2021/22-96 Moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Sage, the Board approve the replacement and reconstruction of the North Pointe playground as presented for \$129,993.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage

NO:

5. Approval of 2022-2023 General Transportation: Mr. Irvine presented this item. For the past year Southgate Community Schools has studied the possibility of returning busing to resident families in Southgate. In 2010, cuts to student funding led to the elimination of general education transportation. The savings produced did not address the long-term financial impact to the district. The district steadily lost students over the course of 10 years, reducing from approximately 5500 to 3079 students. Southgate is in the top 10 of Detroit area districts with the highest decline in a 10 year period.

The loss of students prompted a whole series of cuts including delays and decisions of facilities, internal staffing cuts, and infrastructure to the district.

The state raised the per-pupil funding in the 21-22 school year; \$586 per student. The question at this point, independent of ESSER money, GSRP or any other revenue stream, what are we going to do with this money that is given to us. Will we use it to rebuild the services that we once offered? Transportation is a regular feature of K-12 education, it is successfully budgeted around the state and it was for Southgate for decades. Over the last 10 years Southgate residents have struggled managing traffic congestion while parents transport to facilities that were not designed for heavy parent transport. We have children walking long distances across busy roads to attend school. We have working parents who are searching for rides and adjustments to work schedules to make transportation happen.

Aside from safety, working parents and traffic problems, the post pandemic academic loss planning has to find a way to bring our children back to in-person instruction. By offering transportation to school will help students that are in virtual programming because they cannot make transportation work within their schedules.

A committee was convened of administration, administrative assistants and parents and looked at decision points the Board would need to make if they were bringing back transportation. Surveys were sent out to families asking; should we restore busing, would they use it if we did, did it make a difference in whether or not they would enroll. Survey results were reviewed.

Prior to 2010 the District ran its own transportation department carrying the responsibility and liability for a transportation structure that was unable to respond flexibly to ridership or cost reductions. For general transportation in 2022-2023, the District is recommending a contract amendment with Dean Transportation, our current transportation provider for special education and athletic transportation. Dean will carry the capital outlay and employment responsibilities that will respond to the ridership needs of the District. This responsibility will include providing the dispatch and management oversight for the District.

Key decision that will have to be made by the Board are:

- General Eligibility
- Eligibility Radius
- Preschool and Young 5 Door-to-Door Service Option
- School Start Time Tiering
- Intra-District Transportation Rules
- School of Choice Ridership Rules

The committee's recommendations on the identified items limits its inquiry to the implementation of District busing and leaves assumptions related to budget to the Board of Education.

1. General Eligibility-After reviewing the survey information that shows evenly proportioned interest across grade levels, the committee recommends Pre-K through Grade 12 eligibility. The safety concerns of walking across busy roads and long distances apply to all grade levels. The cost difference between busing only Pre-K through 8 is not large enough to provide a strong budgetary rationale for excluding Anderson students.

2. Eligibility Radius-The Committee recommends making all students, K-12, eligible for transportation if they live a half-mile (0.5 mile) or further from their assigned school, or they have to cross a busy road. Safety and the minimal financial difference between 1 mile eligibility and 0.5-mile eligibility are the primary reason for this recommendation.

3. Preschool and Young 5's Door-to-Door Service-The Committee recommends door-to-door service to every preschool student and Young 5's student for safety reasons. This will make every preschool student and Young 5 student eligible for transportation regardless of where they live.

4. Tiering-the Committee recommends that, for developmental reason, high school and middle school students stay separated on bus runs. The cost difference between two tiers and three tiers is also substantial. For these reasons, the Committee recommends the three-tier start times for schools. Start times are tentative and will require negotiation; however, the likely configuration of start times for 2022-2023 will be:

- 7:15 Anderson High School
- 8:00 Davidson Middle School
- Elementary Schools

Beacon and Asher start times are to be determined.

5. Intra-District Busing-For route efficiency and better transportation experiences for students, the Committee recommends that transportation is not provided to schools other than those schools to which students are assigned, except for those traveling to the North Pointe IB program.

6. School of Choice Student Busing-For the safety and tracking of students, the Committee recommends that transportation is not provided to students who are School of Choice students.

The District will use general funds to cover busing. Ten percent (10%) of this cost will be absorbed by our GSRP transportation budget. The District will use ESSER funds to cover costs associated with restarting transportation and establishing a predictable pattern of ridership.

Discussion: funding and length of time funding will be available, North Pointe transportation, time schedules for the high school and the bus stop locations from year to year.

2021/22-97 Moved by Dr. Pomponio supported by Mr. Lamos, the Board approve the 2022-2023 general transportation contract with Dean Transportation to include eligibility for Pre-K through 12 at a radius of half a mile, using a three-tier bus routing system.

Discussion-Mr. Craig has had this as a goal of his since he has been on the board and has been pushing this, challenging administration, every year he has been on the board for how to bring back busing. When busing is taken away, people are given opportunities to go other places. As we have seen, we dropped from 5500 to 3500 students. He stated a lot of that had to do with the decision to eliminate busing. He supports this 100%.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

6. Approval of an Alternate February 2022 Board Meeting Date: Mr. Craig asked Board members to come up with an alternate February meeting date from the previously scheduled February 22, 2022 date. The Board meets twice a month and the 22nd is during mid-winter break. Proposed dates are Feb 15 or Feb 28.

Board members discussed the date that would not conflict with their schedules.

2021/22-98 Moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Sage, the Board cancel the previously scheduled February 22 board meeting and reschedule the meeting for February 28.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Beth Taylor addressed the board about Shelters Elementary. Spoke highly of all staff members, and the contributions each one of them makes every day. They support and collaborate with each other to make Shelters a family environment where student success and achievement are the priority. She is proud to be a Titan and work with such fabulous people.

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pomponio commented that she has been witness to the wonderful teachers, administrators and support staff at Shelters. The teachers are incredible, they work long hours, look out for each other and the students.

ADJOURNMENT

2021/22-99 Moved by Mr. Lamos supported by Mr. Green, the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

YES: Craig, Estheimer, Freitas, Green, Lamos, Pomponio, Sage
NO:

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Grzechowski

Dr. Darlene Pomponio-Secretary
Board of Education

For detailed conversation, Board meetings may be viewed in their entirety on our website: www.southgateschools.com